



Home Security Surveys

By Officer Craig Liermann



The Franklin Police Department provides free security surveys to Franklin residents. The surveys are conducted by Officers who have received specialized training in residential crime prevention techniques.

Our Crime Prevention Officers will examine the physical security of your home including: locks, doors, windows, lighting and landscaping. The survey usually takes approximately 30 minutes – 1 hour. After the survey is completed you will receive a written report with the results of the survey, an explanation of the report, and suggestions to improve the security of your home. Most often the suggestions provided in the report involve no cost or low cost things you can do on your own. The survey recommendations, if followed will substantially reduce a criminal's opportunity to victimize your home.

If you are interested our FREE security survey of your home, contact the Franklin Police Department at (414) 425-2522 and ask for an available Crime Prevention Officer or leave a voice mail for Officer Craig Liermann at (414) 858-2617. Security surveys can be scheduled for weekdays or weekends, during daylight hours.

The home security survey should not be construed as a guarantee that a crime will not occur at your home. Your safety and security depend upon many factors, not the least of which is interaction with your neighbors and the reporting of suspicious persons and activity to the police at once.



The "Crime of the Decade"

By Detective Jim Jankowski

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. In fact, you or someone you know may have experienced some form of identity theft. The crime takes many forms. Maybe thieves rummaged through your trash,

found a bank statement, and misused your checking account. Or, maybe they rented an apartment using your name. Maybe someone got a credit card using your identity and credit history, and bought expensive stereo equipment.

And maybe you found out about it months later, when your loan application was rejected or when you noticed charges on your credit card statement that you didn't make.

Identity theft is serious. People whose identities have been stolen can spend hundreds of dollars and many days cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their good name and credit record.

The potential for damage, loss, and stress is considerable. Consumers victimized by identity theft may lose out on job opportunities, or be denied loans for education, housing, or cars because of negative information on their credit reports. They may even be arrested for crimes they did not commit.

How do thieves steal an identity?

Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personally identifying information such as your name and Social Security number, credit card numbers, or other financial account information. For identity thieves, this information is as good as gold.

Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including:

1. **Dumpster Diving.** They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.
2. **Skimming.** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card. (See example, next page.)
3. **Phishing.** They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.
4. **Changing Your Address.** They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.
5. **Old-Fashioned Stealing.** They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records for their employers, or bribe employees who have access.



How Your Credit Card Information Can Be Stolen

The practice of stealing live credit card numbers for illegal duplication and sale, racking up millions of dollars in fraudulent charges each year. The crime looks high tech, but it's actually just the evolution of stealing credit card carbons, copying account numbers or sifting through the trash for receipts. It's nothing more than electronic "dumpster diving."

Who is involved and how is it done?

The front-line: A food server, store clerk or other employee who handles credit cards in a legitimate business.

The compromise: The employee runs the credit card through a hand-held skimming device that retrieves and stores credit card data from the card's magnetic stripe. Done just before or after the transaction, the customer has no idea their cardmember information has been copied.



The equipment: Purchased on the black market or constructed with a limited knowledge of electronics, a skimming device can hold the data from as many as 100 credit cards at a time. Some devices that were created for a legitimate purpose are often adapted for this illegal use as well.



The "skimmer" is a small, hand held device that can read the magnetic stripes on credit cards and store that information for later retrieval.

A DOZEN THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE



1. Recognize that keeping firearms in your home may put you at legal risk as well as expose you and your family to physical risk. In many states, parents

can be held liable for their children's actions, including inappropriate use of firearms. If you do choose to keep firearms at home, ensure that they are securely locked, that ammunition is locked and stored separately, and that children know weapons are never to be touched without your express permission and supervision.

2. Take an active role in your children's schools. Talk regularly with teachers and staff. Volunteer in the classroom or library, or in after-school activities. Work with parent-teacher-student organizations.

3. Act as role models. Settle your own conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence.

4. Listen to and talk with your children regularly. Find out what they're thinking on all kinds of topics. Create an opportunity for two-way conversation, which may mean forgoing judgments or pronouncements. This kind of communication should be a daily habit, not a reaction to crisis.

5. Set clear limits on behaviors in advance. Discuss punishments and rewards in advance, too. Disciplining with framework and consistency helps teach self-discipline, a skill your children can use for the rest of their lives.

6. Communicate clearly on the violence issue. Explain that you don't accept and won't tolerate violent behavior. Discuss what violence is and is not. Answer questions thoughtfully. Listen to children's ideas and concerns. They may bring up small problems that can easily be solved now, problems that could become worse if allowed to fester.

7. Help your children learn how to examine and find solutions to problems. Kids who know how to approach a problem and resolve it effectively are less likely to be angry, frustrated, or violent. Take advantage of "teachable moments" to help your child understand and apply these and other skills.



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8. Discourage name-calling and teasing. These behaviors often escalate into fistfights (or worse). Whether the teaser is violent or not, the victim may see violence as the only way to stop it.

9. Insist on knowing your children's friends, whereabouts, and activities. It's your right. Make your home an inviting and pleasant place for your children and their friends; it's easier to know what they're up to when they're around. Know how to spot signs of troubling behavior in kids—yours and others.

10. Work with other parents to develop standards for school related events, acceptable out-of-school activities and places, and required adult supervision. Support each other in enforcing these standards.

11. Make it clear that you support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn. If your child feels a rule is wrong, discuss his or her reasons and what rule might work better.

12. Join up with other parents, through school and neighborhood associations, religious organizations, civic groups, and youth activity groups. Talk with each other about violence problems, concerns about youth in the community, sources of help to strengthen and sharpen parenting skills, and similar issues.

This article provided by Officer Craig Liermann and obtained from: **National Crime Prevention Council**
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW • 13th Floor • Washington, DC 20036 • www.ncpc.org



SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON PROGRAM

By Officer Bob Berres

The Franklin Police Department recognizes the growing population of senior citizens in our community and the particular demands placed on them as they manage their daily affairs. Seniors have worked their whole lives to

provide for their families and live peacefully and safely in their golden years. We often find that seniors become vulnerable to criminal predators and scammers who try to take advantage of their situation. Home improvement cons, fraud, and identity theft, and even physical abuse are just a few of the offenses perpetrated against the elderly.



We at the Franklin Police Department are committed to developing positive, helpful relationships with our senior citizens and empowering them to avoid becoming victims of crime. Officer Bob Berres and Det. Bill Kieckhefer have been assigned to serve as liaisons to all senior citizens living in our community. Both are available to meet and speak to individuals or groups about issues that concern them.



Criminals can target the elderly in a number of ways—such as by mail, telephone and Email as well as in person. Con artists may pretend to want to help you obtain winnings from fictional sweepstakes, pretend to

work at your bank, or represent themselves as employees of the Social Security Administration or Medicare. They may even pretend to be a police officer. **REMEMBER: DO NOT TRUST ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW!!!**

Here are some of the most common ways senior citizens are victimized and some crime prevention tips to help you avoid becoming a victim:

-  Identity theft occurs when someone obtains and misuses your personal identifying information to open charge accounts, or purchase cell phone, cable TV, or utility (gas, electric) service. Never give your personal information to anyone you do not know or trust. If your personal identifying information is stolen, report it immediately to the police.
-  Telephone and mail solicitations for money have become popular scams—the caller tries to get the victim to send in their own money up front in order to obtain phony sweepstakes or lottery winnings; the telemarketer solicits for fake charities; or collectors call to obtain payment for phony unpaid bills. Do not give away your hard-earned money to people you do not know.



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E-mail scams for money, especially those from outside the country are a constant nuisance. Do not open them. Do not respond to them. Delete them immediately from your e-mail inbox.

Home improvement and auto repair fraud occurs when the con artist believes you are susceptible to unneeded service and over charging. Contact the Better Business Bureau before any work is done. Get repair estimates in writing. Review them first with someone you know and trust before agreeing to the work.

Frequently purses and wallets are stolen from shopping carts. Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you. Report any suspicious persons to store employees. Keep your purse with you at all times, close to your body not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside coat pocket. Do not carry large amounts of cash. Pay with checks or credit cards whenever possible.

Burglary occurs when someone enters your house without your knowledge or consent and steals your personal property. Always lock your doors. Leave lights on and a radio or television playing when you are gone. Contact a trusted relative or neighbor and the police department when you are going on vacation and when you return. Contact one of our crime prevention officers for a free home security survey if you have concerns about making your residence more secure.

Door to door sales representatives, including non-profit organizations are required to register with the City of Franklin. For-profit sales representatives must have a permit. Always make sure solicitors are legitimate. If you have doubts, call the Police Department at 414-425-2522 or City Hall at 414-425-7500 before you do business with them.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your Senior Citizen Liaison Officers:

Officer Bob Berres, 8:00am – 4:00pm, 414-858-2636,
E-mail rberres@franklinwi.gov.

Detective Bill Kieckhefer,
2:00pm – 10:00pm, 414-858-2609,
E-mail wkieckhefer@franklinwi.gov.



If you have an emergency and need immediate assistance call 911. If you want to report anything suspicious please call the Franklin Police Department at 414-425-2522.



Your "Portable" Alarm System!

By Officer Ted Mazza

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home, or

someone tampering with your car, just press the panic button for your car alarm. The alarm will be set off and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. The next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this, your car alarm is a security system that you already have. Test it. It will go off from almost anywhere inside your home and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob.

This works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the intruder won't stick around. After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking in the direction of the sound to see what the noise is about. No criminal will want that type of attention. And, remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot (recent events at Mayfair Mall?). The alarm can work the same way there. This technique could save a life or prevent a host of other crimes.

Your Crime Prevention Officers

These are your Crime Prevention Officers and their email addresses for easy contact:

Detective Jim Jankowski:

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Officer Bob Berres:

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Officer Ted Mazza:

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